3. Timely procurement of gunnies.

4. Adequate publicity about the procurement prices, Fair Average Quality specifications and purchase centers.

5. Timely deployment of staff in Mandis.

6. In order to closely monitor the MSP scheme, special Control Rooms are set up in the FCI at their Headquarters as well as regional officers to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. These Control Rooms work on 24 hours basis during the peak procurement season. The State Governments are also requested to set up Control Rooms for the purpose.

Movement and Storage of Agriculture Products

†1962. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to lift control on the movement and storage of agricultural produce within the country and remove curbs on quota and registration of farm produce;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard and the mechanism to overcome scarcity of foodgrains;

(c) whether Government have also decided to remove some items from the list of Essential Commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) since when this orders would be operational; and

(f) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure that benefit in pricing goes to the farmers?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Central Government have issued an order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allowing dealers to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, etc. any quantity of wheat, paddy/ rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils without requiring any license or permit therefor under any order issued under the Act.

(b) 'Foodstuffs' which includes foodgrains still remains an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The enabling provisions of the Act can therefore be utilized to deal with any situation of scarcity of foodgrains if and when it arises.

(c) and (d) The Government have recently removed the following items from the list of commodities declared as essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

1. Cement
2. Textiles Machinery:—
   (i) Knitting Machine, (ii) Spining Machine, (iii) Lace Making Machine, (iv) Powerloom and (v) Processing Machinery.
3. Textiles made from silk.
4. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic spun fibres.
5. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic filament yarn.
6. General Lighting Service Lamps.
7. Household appliances such as electric irons, heaters and the like.
8. Electrical Cables and Wires.
9. Man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic staple fibres.
10. Yarn made wholly or in part from any of the following materials, namely:—
    (i) wool, (ii) man-made cellulosic spun fibre, (iii) man-made non-cellulosic spun fibre, (iv) silk.

11. (i) Man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic filament yarn, (ii) Nylon Tyre Yarn/Cord/Fabric.
12. Switches for domestic and similar purposes, (ii) 2-AMP Switches, (iii) 3-Pin Plugs and Sockets outlets.

(e) The Central Order on Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2002 has come into force after thirty days of the date of its publication in the official gazette (15.2.2002). The notifications for removal of items from the list of essential commodities came into force which effect from the date of their publication in the official gazette on 15.2.2002.

(f) It is expected that the removal of restrictions on storage, movement, etc. of agricultural products will create economic conditions in which farmers will be able to get better price realization for their produce.

Preference of Kakinada Port for Import of Foodgrains

1963. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the shortlisting Kakinada Deep Water Port as a perferred port for foodgrain export and to develop silos at Kakinada port;

(b) if so, when such a request was received in his Ministry;

(c) what steps has been contemplated on such request; and

(d) the places where Government propose to construct the state of art warehousing facilities with modern systems storage and transportation of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request had been received in the Ministry in October 2000.